

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 are pending, Claims 1 and 5-9 having been amended by way of the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action Claims 1-6 (and presumably Claims 7-9 as well) were rejected as being unpatentable over Callahan (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0157023) in view of Sheynblat (U.S. Patent No. 6,677,894).

In reply, each of the independent claims has been amended to explain that the step (or means) for converting structured documents on the basis of the conversion rule information generated in the generating step, is done without an intermediate conversion of the structured documents. Support for this feature is found in Figure 9, step S3, for example. In contrast, Callahan requires the use of an intermediate conversion step. Callahan first converts an XML file on the basis of a CLIPS rule so as to generate an intermediate annotated file from the XML file (see e.g., discussion in Callahan paragraph [0065]-[0066] and in paragraph [0072]). Once the intermediate annotated file is received, it is subsequently converted into the output file using a generated XSLT file. (See e.g., paragraph [0066]-[0067].)

An advantage with the presently claimed invention is that it reduces the processing cost in terms of reducing the number of nodes included in the structured file. Moreover, since the number of conversions in the structured file is half of that relative to the conversion in Callahan, the processing cost and conversion of the presently claimed invention can be made much smaller than that of Callahan.

Sheynblat is asserted for its disclosure of the use of information being sent based on distribution rules that include a user's location and the like. Assuming *arguendo* that this is the case, even this disclosure in combination with Callahan does not teach or suggest all of

the elements of Claims 1-9, as amended. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that no matter how Callahan and Sheynblat are combined, the combination does not teach or suggest all of the elements of Claims 1-9 as neither reference describes performing the converting step or means without an intermediate conversion.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 1-9, as amended, is patentably distinguishing over the prior art. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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